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In the
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Country.

Facts about the
Wheat Growing,
Cattle Raising
and Mixed Farming
of the
Great Fertile Belt.

The
Duck Lake
District

Compiled
under the authority of the
Duck Lake
Agricultural Society.

Of Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories
of Canada.

Illustrated and Described.

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A TYPICAL NORTH WEST FARM.—(From a photograph).



A FARM SCENE ON THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN.—(From a photograph).

THE FERTILE SASKATCHEWAN COUNTRY.

Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1893, by Acton Burrows, at the Department of Agriculture.

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THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

The Duck Lake District.

Compiled by Authority of the Duck Lake Agricultural Society.

No doubt the name of Duck Lake is already known to a great many of the readers of this article, it having been a trading post for years in the early history of Saskatchewan and being close to the old historic Fort Carlton. Further on in these pages the advantages of the district are pointed out by practical men who have made it their home.

Anyone desiring any information on these or other points would do well to write him. The addresses of other reliable parties to gain information from and their postal addresses are given on another page.

There is room for thousands of families in the Duck Lake district, lands are free, and there are no taxes to burden them. No matter what their nationality may be, English, Irish, Scotch, Canadian or any other, they will find friends and countrymen to greet them on arrival who will do their utmost to help them to begin life here. The British emigrant would do well to bear in mind the advice conveyed by Mr. Urton's notes on that particular subject. The land system is fully described in another column. Those anxious to know something of the school system will be benefited by reading what Mr. Tymms says on the subject. He

A report of delegates from the State of Michigan, U.S.A., who visited and inspected this district last summer, is also given. A great influx of settlers from this state will come to Duck Lake during this year. They are being driven from their own country by poor crops, small farms, high taxation, and many other burdens which bear heavily on the poor farmer, to seek for themselves homes in this great North West where they can have free farms of 160 acres, with no taxation except what they impose on themselves for support of schools. And as one of them remarked when being driven round the country, "This is good enough for me. I can see without going farther that a man can earn a good living here if he is willing to work."

As for the sportsman he will see further on that this is a regular paradise for those who care for



HIGHLAND CATTLE WINTERING AT DUCK LAKE

One of the writers, Mr. Hillyard Mitchell, is an Englishman who has lived in the North-West some 20 years and probably knows more about the early history of Saskatchewan than anyone else in the Territories. He is the member of the Legislative Assembly for the district.

Capt. Wm. Craig is a Scotchman, who has farmed successfully in this district for 10 years. As he is a thoroughly educated man and a good practical farmer, anyone seeking information as to agricultural capabilities of the district will do well to write him.

Mr. W. S. Urton is an Englishman who has made this country his home and has been successful.

Dr. A. B. Stewart is Secretary to the Duck Lake Immigration Committee, and always takes an active part in looking after new settlers, and assisting them in finding places to locate. He is thoroughly acquainted with the system of survey and knows all parts of the district thoroughly, as to vacant lands, character of soil, wood, water, &c.

is an Englishman who has lived here a number of years. The original notes given by Messrs. Gilbert Carter, and Henry Kelly, Canadian farmers, show what they are doing in the Duck Lake district.

The different settlements already established in the Duck Lake district are described briefly, so that a new comer may expect to find himself not alone on the prairie unless he chooses. Settlers with capital and those whose means will only enable them to make a start in the new country, will find notes on the following pages which will be interesting to them, showing that this is the country for both, the only difference being that the operations of the capitalist may be more extensive at first than those of settlers of less means. As to climate full particulars are given from which persons can learn what they may expect to find in each month. The months are compared one with the other to show that there are not here the sudden climatic changes of many other parts of Canada and the northern states of the Union.

sport and can take the time to have a good outing, while as to small game during the season the settler keeps his house supplied without having to move off his own property. The culture of fruits is dealt with by a practical writer who gives the varieties of native fruits abounding in every part of the district free for all.

The illustrations, with the exception of the last, are all from original photographs of places in the district, taken in winter, by a resident. The views of Mr. Mitchell's house and of his cattle taken at his ranch, give an idea of how comfortable a settler can make himself in this country. The photograph of the cattle, a portion of Mr. Mitchell's herd, was taken while they were feeding, showing what shelter they have and how they are fed. Mr. Mitchell's ranch is also illustrated by a sketch made in summer which shows the change from a winter scene.

The view of Capt. Craig's house and buildings, with some of his cattle, but poorly represents the

beautiful farm he has. Everything about the place is new as he has only been on it a year. It will be much changed in a year or two. Before moving to it he farmed in the Northern part of the Saskatchewan, but being greatly struck with the Duck Lake district he has settled permanently in it. He and his sons farm from 300 to 400 acres and intend going into it even more extensively, as they own upwards of 1,000 acres.

One of the illustrations represents a number of settlers arriving at the Canadian Pacific Railway station with wheat for shipment. The marketing of grain is often left till winter, as the farmers have more time to spare then than in the busy times of harvest, threshing, &c. Another of the illustrations shows the advancement of one of the Indian settlers, giving his old house which he lived in for a number of years as well as his new one which is well furnished and comfortable.

A Pioneer's Views.

By Hillyard Mitchell, M. L. A.

Duck Lake is situated in township 44, range 2, west of the 3rd meridian, Dominion Land Survey, between the north Saskatchewan and the south Saskatchewan rivers, being about 6 miles from the south Saskatchewan and 12 miles from the north Saskatchewan. It is in the centre of one of the best farming districts in the North West Territories, including an area of some 6000 square miles.

The soil is generally a black sandy loam, varying in depth and with a clay or sand subsoil. The soil is not sticky, and is very easily worked and it possesses all the food that the wheat plant requires for its successful growth. The district is well watered by the two Saskatchewan rivers already named, the banks of which are heavily timbered, and by numerous and large lakes, also a number of creeks and small running streams. The surface varies from a gently undulating to a high rolling prairie, and is dotted with bluffs of timber. All kinds of grain and roots can be successfully grown, particularly wheat, but it is generally conceded that mixed farming pays best.

That portion of the district between the two Saskatchewan rivers, and all south of the north Saskatchewan, is best adapted for grain growing, but a great deal answers well for mixed farming. The parts best adapted for ranching are north of the north Saskatchewan, where hay is plentiful. Timber for fuel and fencing is plentiful in all parts of the district, consisting chiefly of poplars, whilst fir, spruce, tamarac, jack pine and other timber can be obtained at easy distance for the settler in any part of the district for building purposes.

Horses do well wintering out, self-fed on grass and self-watered on snow, the short buffalo grass being most nutritious, and thus enables horses not only to keep their condition, but to come out fat in the spring. Cattle have to be fed hay or straw, 3 or four months during winter, but it is not necessary to stable them. All breeds of cattle do well, I believe Aberdeen Polled Angus and West Highlanders are the hardiest and thrive best. All breeds of horses do well and the same may be said of sheep, and there is never any loss on account of the region or the climate, which I consider the best all around climate in the world, very healthy and agreeable. We are not troubled with blizzards, and the settlers' every day work is not deterred by cold. Owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, cloudless sky and sunshine almost continually during winter, the cold is not felt as much as in a damp climate. We sometimes have severe cold, but only for a few days, and some winters we do not have any severe weather. The snow varies in depth from one to two feet. The summer is not disagreeably hot, and sunshine predominates; the nights are always cool.

The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan Railway, which is operated as a branch of the C.P.R., runs through the centre of the district, the principal towns and settlements on the line being Saskatoon, Rosthern, Duck Lake and Willoughby. Saskatoon occupies a commanding site on the banks of the South Saskatchewan where the railway crosses that river and is the headquarters for the Temperance Colonization Company. Duck Lake is a town of about the same size. Rosthern is a settlement of about 60 families of German Mennonites, who are the advance guard of a large number of most desirable settlers. Willoughby is a station

in the centre of a prosperous and well advanced farming community.

There are vacant lands in Alberta and every township in the district, but the land near the railway is being rapidly taken up. Schools are sufficiently numerous to be within reasonable distance of children's homes, and education of a sound nature is provided. There are no municipalities in the district and the only taxes levied are for the support of schools, which average about 8 mills on the dollar. The roads as a rule are naturally good, owing to the nature of the soil, and the government grants are sufficiently liberal to provide for bridges, grading and repair where required. There are churches in various parts of the district, and also a number of visiting clergymen where there are no churches. Postal and telegraphic communication are sufficient for present requirements.

We have abundance of game all through the district and both Saskatchewan rivers are teeming with fish, as also are many of the lakes. Agricultural implements can be had at reasonable prices from the Massey-Harris Co., who have their headquarters at Duck Lake, and the settler can get every requirement at prices that will compare favorably with other parts.

Farming in Duck Lake District.

By Capt. Wm. Craig.

There is a large and important class of settlers whom it is desired to attract towards the Saskatchewan country, those practical farmers, namely, in the eastern provinces of Canada, in the United States and in the old countries of Europe, who are looking out for new locations, where their skill, industry and capital will meet with an adequate return, and where they may safely expect to attain that comfort and independence which have not always rewarded their labors hitherto. It is for the instruction of this class in particular that this article is specially intended. It has therefore been considered advisable to throw together a few remarks on the conditions and prospects of the farming industry in this district, the information sought to be conveyed being derived solely from personal experience and observation. This, it is hoped, will in some measure enable practical men to judge for themselves and to draw safe conclusions as to the resources and capabilities of Duck Lake as a farming country.

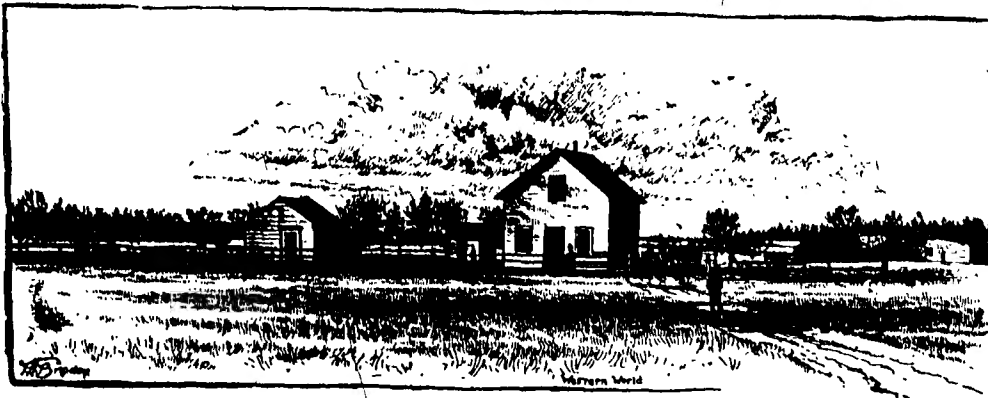
The topographical and physical features and climatic conditions being described elsewhere, it is only necessary to say here in passing, that, from a farmer's point of view, the district will compare favorably, as regards situation, soil and climate, with any area of similar extent in the North West. Lying in the richest part of the Fertile Belt and within easy reach of Hudson's Bay, the great trade route of the future, and to which it is confidently expected the railway which now traverses the district will soon be extended, it has the further advantage of being intersected by the North and South Saskatchewan rivers, flowing from the Rocky Mountains through pine forests, coal-fields and immense tracts of grazing and farming lands. It has also, by these rivers, direct connection with Grand Rapids, near Lake Winnipeg, where the first railway to Hudson's Bay is likely to cross the main Saskatchewan, the enormous water-power of which, when utilized for economic purposes, will be a powerful factor in the development of the whole country. Its geographical situation is therefore peculiarly favorable, and besides it possesses the uncommon advantage of being located in the region where the forest country of the north and the treeless plains of the south come together and it thus embraces within its bounds a variety of soils suitable for every branch of farming. In short, whether a settler desires to follow ranching, on a moderate scale, stock-raising in any line, dairying, agriculture proper or mixed farming, he can here find land and other facilities exactly suited to his wants and wishes. Roughly speaking, the northern portion of that part of Duck Lake district which lies between the rivers is well adapted for grazing and the southern portion for cultivation, while the intermediate division, as well as the great stretches of virgin country south of the South Branch and north of the North Branch are admirably suited for mixed farming. The climate does not materially differ from the rest of the Saskatchewan valley. The summer is pleasant and the winter, though long and no doubt severe

at times, is dry, free from sudden, excessive changes of temperature and very healthy for both man and beast. Experience has proved this beyond a doubt. Whatever the causes may be and however explainable scientifically, the fact may safely be relied on and it is a fact the importance of which can hardly be exaggerated, for of what value are all other material advantages if good health is wanting? There is also an absence of the summer cyclone and winter blizzard, which frequently play such havoc in the true prairie regions south of the international border, and this too is a feature that should be borne in mind by careful and prudent settlers.

Farming in all its branches has been carried on in this district for a good many years and its capabilities have therefore been thoroughly tested and proved. The pioneer settlers were chiefly French and English-speaking natives, with a percentage from the older provinces and other countries, but since the railway was completed there has been an influx of the latter classes. This spring many more immigrants will doubtless locate, as the district was visited during the summer and fall of last year by numerous farmers' delegates, who were uniformly pleased with the country, its produce and its prospects. Farming is conducted under natural conditions very similar to those that prevail throughout the greater part of Manitoba, but although wheat is a main crop with the majority, mixed farming is the universal custom, having been found to be more suitable, reliable and profitable than the growing of grain exclusively. All kinds of live stock are raised in considerable numbers, easily and cheaply.

Regarding horses, it may be said that, numerically, the native ponies are still the principal class, but horses of a better grade are now being raised successfully, though this branch of the industry will bear much future development. The native horse is hardy and requires little care or attention. The past winter was more severe and the snow deeper than for at least 10 years previously, and yet bands of these horses have been running at large all winter, pawing for their living, and are to be seen in wonderfully good condition. Indeed so highly is this particular district thought of as a wintering ground that numbers of settlers from a distance have been in the habit of bringing their spare horses here year after year and leaving them to their own resources for the winter. Even the better grades of horses bred in the country will paw, if allowed to run out, but good animals require good treatment and it will always be found more profitable to have them comfortably housed and well cared for in winter and this remark is more especially applicable to horses imported from the east.

Cattle are largely bred and as good animals are to be seen here as any in the country. Mr. Hillyard Mitchell, M.L.A., has the largest ranch in the district and has shown great enterprise, as well as sound judgment, in importing thoroughbred animals of various breeds, notably Polled Angus and the picturesque Kyloes or West Highlanders. Both these breeds, the imported stock and their produce also, have been found to do remarkably well here and they are always to be seen in the pink of good condition, though as a rule they are never housed summer or winter. In winter, however, all cattle require to be fed more or less, as owing to the greater depth of snow, they cannot "rustle" here for their living as they are said to do on the Alberta ranches. Where shelter is available, cattle, especially young stock, will winter quite well round the straw piles and continue in good condition, still it is always safer and more economical in the long run to have them housed during the very coldest weather. Although the country cow is still in evidence everywhere, there are now many moderate sized herds of grade animals, chiefly from crossing with the Shorthorn, but, as in the case of horses, so here, there is considerable room for further improvement. At present cattle are reared chiefly for beef and as a well bred steer can be raised just as economically as a scrub and with much better result, there is a universal desire for improvement in this line. As a rule all cattle alike are fed in summer only on the natural pasture, which is rich and abundant, and in winter on natural hay and on straw. There is little or no grain fed and roots are but sparingly used. Soiling and stall feeding may be said to be practically unknown, although, where tried experimentally, the result has been very favorable. Besides supplying local wants, there is always a sufficient export demand for all the good two and three-year old steers that can be produced, and at remunerative



AN INDIAN'S HOMESTEAD. NEAR DUCK LAKE.

prices, the cost of production being small. In this branch there is ample room for extension and no danger whatever of over-stocking the market. Dairying has been conducted hitherto in private dairies only, consequently on a comparatively small scale. Cheese is scarcely made for sale and butter only in moderate quantity. Owing to the richness of the pastures already referred to and the abundance of pure water, butter of the finest quality is made, where proper methods are followed and the necessary care and cleanliness exercised, showing what might be done under the creamery system if it could be introduced. At present, however, owing to the sparseness of the population, this cannot be accomplished, and this branch of the farming industry must be relegated to the future.

Although the sheep industry may be said to be still in its infancy, small flocks are kept by many of the settlers, and Mr. Diehl and Mr. Carter have made a specialty of sheep farming for six or seven years. Both have been quite successful, and judging, not only from their experience, but from that of other flockmasters in the Saskatchewan Valley, nothing is more certain than that this branch is a safe and paying one. Little feed is required in the winter and close stables are hurtful rather than beneficial. The Leicester, Shropshire, Southdown and Merino grades have been introduced, and all succeed well and multiply rapidly. Disease is almost unknown, the mutton is of the finest quality and the fleeces heavy. The prairie wolf is a natural enemy of the sheep, but with ordinary care the loss from this or any other cause is insignificant.

Pigs are raised universally and yet not in great numbers, for there is not yet any curing establishment in the district or within any reasonable distance, and the consequence is that large quantities of bacon are imported every year. This ought not to be the case and it is hoped a packery may be started in the near future, which would encourage the industry and ultimately be able to supply both the home and export markets with first-class bacon. Owing to the ease with which coarse grains, peas and roots are grown, pigs can be raised very economically. There does not seem to be any marked difference in the feeding values of wheat, oats or barley, weight for weight, and although there is a constant flow of literature in the stock journals about methods of feeding, there is really, so far at least as this country is concerned, no mystery in the matter at all. Common sense and a little practical experience supply all the information requisite and it is the simplest matter in the world to raise pigs here yielding the finest pork, safely and cheaply enough, both summer and winter.

With respect to agriculture, it may be stated that grain and roots of all kinds have been grown continuously since the first settlement of the district and there is now nothing problematical about the success of this branch of the farming industry. As mentioned before, there is a variety of soil, which ranges from the deep heavy loam, bearing in its natural state a luxuriant growth of hay and peavine, to the light sandy loam carrying the shorter and harder grasses of the prairie. It is necessary to vary crop and culture accordingly, and so all skillful farmers do. It is not claimed and should not be expected that any kind of seed, thrown into any kind of soil, worked in a careless and slovenly manner, will yield a good return. Good farming is here exactly what it is elsewhere and under ordinary conditions of weather, proper adaptation of seed to soil and skillful culture, an adequate return may be confidently expected. Wheat is of

course the most important cereal. Club was the common variety up till the crop of 1883 and old settlers say it always yielded well and was hardly ever known to be touched by frost, but with the dry season of 1884 and the "troubles" of 1885, this variety went out and Red Fyfe, White Fyfe and White Russian became the staples. A few years ago Ladoga was introduced and proved to be an early ripening variety, but as it failed to find favor with the millers, it has practically gone out of cultivation. Red Fyfe is now, here as elsewhere, the prevailing favorite and wheat of this variety, of as fine a sample as anything produced on this continent, has been grown year after year and can be grown every year with but a minimum chance of partial failure. This, though a somewhat sweeping statement, is no exaggeration. The wheat grown here is well known locally to be of the highest grade and when the quantity available for export becomes large enough to attract attention in more distant markets, it will have a name second to none. The few car loads already exported have been very highly thought of. No winter wheat is grown and as regards methods of cultivation there seems to be a consensus of opinion that fall ploughing is better than spring ploughing and summer fallow decidedly preferable to either. Indeed some of the best farmers intend in future to sow wheat on summer fallow only (except of course in the case of new land) cropping one half their land each year and fallowing the other half. This is undoubtedly an excellent plan, as the seed will always be got in early, the land will be kept clean, it will bear only one crop in two years and the yield per acre will certainly be increased. Of course it will necessitate a larger area being brought under the plough. The press-drill seeder has not yet come into general use, but it is well adapted to much of the land and probably the best field of wheat in the district last year was to be seen on the fine farm of Mr. Kelly, close to Duck Lake village, seeded in this way.

The climate conditions are highly favorable to agriculture. There has been in the history of the district an occasional wet or dry season, but marked deviations from the normal condition of a desirable medium as regards temperature and rainfall are exceptional. Regarding fall frost, it has been marked that careful observation here, compared

with reliable data from other localities, leads to the conviction that in no degree is this district worse off on an average than Manitoba and the North Western States of the Union. With the single exception of the year 1887, there has been no appreciable damage from frost within the last 10 years, and as no wheat growing country is free from fluctuations of some kind, I am not sure that a better record can be shown anywhere. It is believed that with more general settlement and progressive agricultural methods, injury from frost will be greatly lessened, if not entirely obviated.

After what has been said about wheat, it is not necessary to say much about the other grains, except that they are grown here just as successfully as elsewhere. Oats, black and white, are grown all over the district, chiefly for local consumption. Oat straw, especially if the crop has been cut a little on the green side, is valuable for winter fodder, and both horses and cattle will thrive upon it. Wheat and barley straw are also fed to cattle. The common four-rowed barley has been mostly grown, and two-rowed has been tried experimentally with good results. The average yield of grain per acre is necessarily something of a guess, as there is no reliable means of obtaining crop statistics for the whole district. With this explanation, it may be said, a fair acreage is considered to be 20 to 30 bushels for wheat, 40 to 60 for oats and 30 to 50 for barley. Peas do very well, but only a small acreage is grown. Timothy is the only cultivated hay that has been tried as a crop, and where the soil is suitable, that is to say where not too dry, it succeeds well. Potatoes yield heavy crops of finest quality, and all kinds of field roots give great returns. Although swedes, mangolds and carrots are as yet only cultivated on a limited scale, they are all found to be heavy croppers, while for vegetables and all garden produce the district cannot be excelled.

The greatest drawback the Saskatchewan farmer has to contend with at present is distance from the market, the long land carriage and consequent high rate of freight. This has been brought home to him more pointedly than before, since the price of wheat in Britain, which rules the world's quotations, has fallen lower than ever, and now stands at a figure heretofore unheard of. It is well known that land carriage costs in comparison with ocean freight something like 12 to one. The great desideratum therefore for this district, in common with the rest of the Northwest Territories, is the speedy opening of the Hudson's Bay route, which will bring us as near Britain, the great open market for this continent, in cost of freight, as any country in the world exporting agricultural produce. Were this route once an accomplished fact, the impetus to agriculture thereby given would be incalculable and the fertile belt would quickly be occupied by tens of thousands of thriving families.

The Supply of Wood and Water.

This is a question of vital importance in any farming country. As to wood for fuel there is any amount in any part of the Duck Lake district; the different woods found here, are poplar, willow, spruce, tamarac, fir or jack pine, birch, ash and the soft maple. Poplar is found anywhere on the



FARMERS MARKETING GRAIN AT DUCK LAKE.

prairie, two varieties are noticed, the white and black, and timber for building purposes and fencing can be secured from both, all along the rivers and on the ridges and in gullees. For other and more durable timber the settler has only to go eight miles from Duck Lake station, north, when he comes to the great timber belt, where there is an unlimited quantity of spruce, fir, birch and tamarac. Poplar being the easiest to get at is generally used for fuel in the winter. Although burning away quickly it makes a good fire, and when the dry is mixed with the green wood it lasts well, keeping up fire in a good box stove all night. The other varieties are used chiefly for timber, a great quantity also being manufactured into lumber and shingles at the mills in Prince Albert and Muskeg Lake. As to fuel, although the supply of wood is unlimited, yet the people look forward to the opening up of the coal mines, now existing on the banks of the north Saskatchewan, and which will be working in the near future, when coal will be supplied at a small cost.

Abundance of water, which is both wholesome and pure, can be secured any where by digging wells from 10 to 25 feet deep. The much talked of alkali is not being found in well water to any extent in any part of district, and even where it is found it is not injurious to health, rather the contrary. It is found in some of the surface ponds or sloughs in all parts of Manitoba and the Northwest, and has been much talked of by people who are ignorant of what it is. The generally found alkaline salt is sulphate of magnesia, which is nothing more or less, when sold in the chemist's shop, than common or Epsom salts, which in almost every country people are accustomed to take in large doses. Now the small amount of this salt found in any well water would never have any effect on the system, and the minute quantity found in wells in different parts of the country is not worth mentioning, being not nearly so detrimental to man or beasts as the water drunk from the old fashioned wells at home. Unless there was a great quantity of this salt in water, it would never be recognized except by a chemical analysis, and by digging wells to proper depth, no trace of it will be had. In different parts of the district, running streams, creeks, etc., furnish an unlimited supply for the farm, even without a well, as the much talked of frost of Canada does not freeze it to the bottom in midwinter, in fact in several parts of the district running streams are seen flowing all winter with no ice covering them.

Native Fruits

As in other parts of the Saskatchewan country, the Duck Lake district has some 15 varieties of native fruits, 10 samples of which have been sent to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago this year with the other exhibits from this district. There are the wild strawberry which occurs everywhere on the prairies, and raspberries to be found in the bluffs in all parts. Cherries, three varieties, blue berries or huckle berries, Saskatoons, a fruit resembling the blueberry, cranberries, two varieties high bush and low bush, found in immense quantities, gooseberry, resembling much the cultivated variety and producing a splendid crop which is increased by cultivation. Black and red currants are plentiful along the rivers and on the banks of lakes, quite equalling the cultivated ones in size and flavor. The buffalo berry grows on a small tree and resembles the red currant in appearance and taste. And another much resembling the raspberry, viz the dewberry. Owing to the great amount of these fruits to be had for the trouble of gathering them fruit culture has not been carried on much in the district, although the cultivated species of the above are grown without the least trouble. And no doubt in the near future apples and plums will be grown here as in Ontario.

The Climate.

This is one of the most interesting subjects to the intending settler, the much exaggerated stories and illustrations of the Canadian winters often frightening good settlers who would otherwise settle here if they had some authentic information on this matter, or had a chance of visiting the country and seeing for themselves. Winter gradually merges into spring during the last half of March and beginning of April, although snow disappears and warm weather often comes earlier,

still this is the rule. The thermometer never ranges very low nor do we have much severe frost after the middle of March, while in April the farmers are all at work getting in their crop. Early in May flowers are seen on the prairie and we may say we have warm weather. During these two months we have occasional showers of rain, and although the days are warm the nights are cool. Summer begins about the middle of May and extends to the latter part of September. June and July are great growing months, that is to say, the growth of everything in the vegetable kingdom rushes on with great rapidity, owing to the heat and moisture at this time most favorable to growth. As a general thing there is a great deal of rain in June and in the early part of July, while during the latter part of this month there is a long spell of beautiful warm weather with only occasional showers. The atmosphere is always beautifully clear and one can see with the naked eye for a surprising distance. During the last half of July and early part or till the third week in August is the hottest weather, the thermometer ranging from 68° to 80° Fahrenheit, and up to 100° in the sun. August and September are usually dry months with a clean and cloudless sky, most suitable weather for the farmer at this season.

We have had, during one or two years, a very slight frost during the last week in August, which has never been so severe as to seriously damage crops, except some that were sown very late. It is a usual thing to have a frost during the first 10 days of September, which is rarely noticed, after which we may have none until on in October. September is a most beautiful month for comfort, being neither too hot nor too cold, but keeping about that genial temperature which everyone enjoys. Although in summer the days are warm the nights are always cool, so we never have those stuffy hot nights of other climates. October is usually more unsettled, often having a week or two of wet weather, then delightful weather for the rest of the month, clear days, cool nights with frost occasionally in the first part of the month and regularly during the last week. This is generally called Indian summer although in a late autumn it often comes in the next month.

In November the days are still clear but somewhat colder, there being a fall of snow probably early in the month melting away in a day or two, which takes the place of rain in hot climates. After this we have dry weather with a few degrees of frost at night, continuing up to Christmas. Although we usually have enough snow for sleighing at Christmas, yet the weather is not very cold and winter may hardly be said to have set in earnest. In January and February we have clear cold weather with occasional falls of snow. The thermometer ranges in these months from freezing point to 40 and 45° below zero, still even in the coldest weather it is not disagreeable, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere and the cold is not much minded, the writer having often driven 40 and 45 miles a day during the last 10 years. In March the cold weather is a thing of the past and even from the middle of February in some years no severe weather has been experienced and the snow disappeared early in March. As we do not have rain from the beginning of November until the latter part of March the snow is looked upon as a friend rather than an enemy, taking the place of the rainfall in other countries and thoroughly wetting the ground for the spring seeding. There is no uniform depth, as seasons are not all alike in this respect, but taking one year with another it may be said to be from 6 to 18 inches on the level, with a greater depth in the bluffs where it collects. In some years there has been so little snow that cattle have wintered out as well as horses, while in others, as during this winter, we have about 18 inches on the level and a great depth in any sheltered places where it can gather up.

It is seen from the foregoing that our cold weather seldom lasts over two months or two months and a half, giving us, taking from moderate to severe cold weather, three months of winter. It must not be thought for a moment that this severe cold lasts continuously, as we often, both in January and February, have weeks of balmy weather with very little cold, and in no year has the cold been uninterrupted by these breaks of moderate weather throughout the winter.

Shooting and Fishing.

Duck Lake is recognized as one of the best shooting grounds in the Territories, for both small and

large game. The prairie chickens, a species of grouse, are probably the most common of the small game and can be shot in hundreds anywhere in the district, even on the buildings in town on a frosty morning. They are exceedingly fine eating and much prized in Manitoba and all over the Territories. The open or shooting season for these birds is from Sept. 1st to January 1st, four months, but as they do not migrate, the settler who is anything of a shot, can bag enough in November and December to keep him in game for the balance of the winter. Next come wild ducks, of which some 30 to 40 varieties are found in abundance on all small lakes, which abound all over the district. These vary in size from the small teal to the mallard and fall duck, which equal in size many of the largest domestic ducks. The season for shooting ducks is from August 15th to May 15th. Thousands upon thousands will pass over your head in an evening should you chance to be near some body of water.

Then there is the wild goose, of which there are several varieties, varying in size from the white wavy (pure white) to the large black goose, which is as large as any domestic goose. These birds collect by thousands on various favorite feeding grounds in the vicinity of Duck Lake, and are killed in great numbers both in the spring and autumn. Other varieties of small game found in abundance are partridge (several species), plover, snipe, sand hill crane (several species), hare, rabbits, and others somewhat rarer. Partridges are found in all the woody parts and in bluffs; they are not so large as the prairie chicken, but their flesh is delicious, being as white as snow. Snipe and plover of different varieties are found in immense numbers all over the district. The sand hill crane, the flesh of which much resembles that of the domestic turkey, generally visits the farmers grain fields in a morning. This bird is somewhat larger than the turkey. The season for shooting it is generally the same as for prairie chicken.

Going further from the settlements, big game is found, deer, several varieties, including black tail, white tail, jumping deer, red deer, antelope and moose. One Duck Lake settler has killed between 90 and 100 deer this season. By going still further from settlements, the ambitious hunter may find something more exciting in the bear, of which there are three or four species, including the small black bear, brown or cinnamon and the grizzly, which latter will probably give the hunter all the excitement he wants, should he show fight. However, these are very seldom seen and only in districts remote from settlements. The country is teeming with foxes, coyotes, badgers, etc., which would create excellent sport if hunt clubs were organized. Occasionally some of the settlers give Reynard a run with their swift bronchos, but as yet there is no pack of hounds in the district. There is no country in the world where this sport could be more enjoyed than here, with the beautiful prairies for miles before the hunter, and foxes to be found in some localities every hundred yards.

Here also those who are fond of fishing can enjoy themselves to their heart's content. Although the two Saskatchewan rivers, one on either side of the district, are teeming with fish, yet those who can afford to take a week's holiday in summer could not do better than camp with their families at some of the beautiful lakes within half a day's drive from Duck Lake, taking their boat or canoe and tent with them, trolling for pike or perch from the boat, getting sport seldom obtained elsewhere. The fish to be found in all large lakes, as well as in many of the very small ones, are chiefly pike, perch, whitefish and trout, while in running streams one gets sturgeon, gold eyes, mullets, etc. The writer would strongly advise all settlers coming out from the old country to bring their guns, etc., with them, although all sporting goods can be obtained reasonably here, still if one has them so much the better. Every accommodation can be given to sportsmen and tourists at the Saskatchewan Hotel, Duck Lake, and teams can be furnished for those who wish to go to a distance for sport.

The System of Education.

By W. R. Tymms, Principal of Duck Lake Public School.

Many who would improve their position by emigrating to a new country may be deterred by an anticipated difficulty in providing for the

education of their children. Such a difficulty, if it existed, would afford good reason to a careful parent for remaining where his children might receive such culture as would enable them intelligently to work for their livelihood or to enjoy their leisure time. But in the North-West Territories of Canada, far from there being any want of facilities for education, efficient schools can be readily established even in the very smallest settlements; such schools receive from the North-West Government aid so liberal that only a small part of the expense falls on the settlers, and the actual working of the school system has been so efficient that education is within reach of all.

To illustrate the case with which a school district can be formed even in a very small settlement, let us suppose the case of half a dozen settlers (say four of them heads of families) in a new district, and within an area not more than five miles long by five broad; the families include 10 children between the ages of five years and 20 years. Naturally the heads of families wish for a school. To obtain this, three of the settlers may petition the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and, with his consent—which is given as a matter of course—these settlers post up notices in a few conspicuous places calling a meeting of all who would become ratepayers to the new school; then, on a favorable vote of a majority present, the school district is constituted, and three trustees are elected. One of these trustees retire each year so that an election of one new trustee takes place at each annual meeting of the ratepayers. On the trustees so appointed devolves the duty of selecting a school site, contracting to have a school house built (for which, with the ratepayers' consent, they may borrow the necessary funds, repayable in a term of years) engaging a teacher, equipping the school with seats, desks, maps, etc., and, when expedient, providing a suitable library for the school district. They may also require the teacher to give a certain amount of religious instruction. The trustees are also empowered to make such assessments on property as may be necessary to defray expenses. These expenses, however, are likely to be small, since in the case of the very smallest schools, the North-West Government contributes annually while the school is open, \$294, which may be increased indefinitely with the growth of the school, the advance of the pupils and the qualifications of the teacher employed. In very many cases the Government grant amounts to 70 per cent. of the teachers' salary, the ratepayers being thus charged with only 30 per cent. of it, but of course in many other cases, the anxiety of the ratepayers to secure adequate education for their children leads them to take a larger part of the burden on their own shoulders.

The Government exercises a general supervision over these schools, to secure their efficiency, a Department of Education appointing inspectors, whose duty it is to visit each school twice a year and report on their conduct and progress. The same Department holds examinations for teachers and grants them certificates, without which, they are not allowed to teach. The qualifications needed to pass these examinations already compare favorably with the standards of Ontario and other places and there is a tendency to raise them still higher. Although many of our public school teachers have been trained for their profession at normal schools in Ontario or Manitoba, the Government is gradually introducing normal schools into the Territories. The results of these arrangements appear in the neat school houses which may be seen in every village and on every country road where there is settlement. And these schools will in most cases be found to be well furnished—the old-fashioned, strait-backed or un-backed seats which were the torture of our childhood every where discarded—well equipped with maps, blackboards, globes and other necessities, and well-taught—this last advantage being generally secured by the qualifications required of teachers, as well as by annual examination of the pupils.

On the successful result of these annual written examinations partly depends the Government grant earned by the school. A reference to the programme of these examinations for two of the standards may give some idea of what is taught in our country schools. Pupils in standard 3, (aged from 8 to 11) are examined in reading, dictation, composition and language, arithmetic, geography and history; in standard 4, (ages from 10 to 14) pupils are examined in the same subjects, with the addition of book-keeping, drawing, literature and agriculture. The fact that literature is prescribed

shows that culture is looked for as well as the faculty for earning dollars and cents; and the addition of agriculture may be referred to to prove that our educators do not educate to turn children's thoughts away from the farm.

Provision has also been made for higher education by the establishment of high schools in nearly all the centres of population; and in these schools the programme of studies is rather wide, including all that is generally required for university matriculation. The teachers of such schools are required to be university graduates, and pupils are only admitted after passing the standard 4 examination. There are, too, probably many public schools where the high school course would be taught to pupils who passed the necessary standard. There are, for instance, two schools close to Duck Lake, in either of which the teacher would doubtless be well qualified to undertake high school work.

It will be seen from this account that our educational system is complete, at least in the two main parts, the public and the high school. Already, too, there is a demand for a University for the North-West, and its establishment is probably only a matter of time.

The Cost of Living.

The newly-arrived settler of course will require to purchase all the provisions for at least a year, after that the farm will produce the larger portion, but the prices of articles which he will always re-

quire to purchase, as given here, will convey some idea of what it will cost to live. The staples are flour, which is sold at an average of \$2.40 per 100 lbs., or 10 shillings sterling; sugar from 5 to 7 cents a lb. (a cent being equivalent to a halfpenny), tea, 30 to 60 cents a lb., according to quality; coffee, 35 to 45 cents a lb.; oatmeal or rolled oats, which is used largely for porridge, costs from \$3 to \$4 per 100 lbs., or at about 4 cents a lb. for smaller quantities; currants and raisins sell at 8 to 10 cents a lb. In fact most articles of consumption do not exceed English prices and in fact are generally cheaper. The best beef and mutton can be bought at from 7 to 10 cents a lb.; bacon from 12 cents to 16 cents a lb.; hams from 18 to 20 cents a lb., and so on in proportion for articles less often required.

The average price for implements is: breaking plow, \$18 to \$22; stubble plow, \$20 to \$22; harrow, \$16 to \$20; full sized wagon, \$70 to \$80. These are the only implements which will be required to be purchased by the new settler for at least one or two years, as he can hire a seeder or drill, also a self binder to reap his crop, at a small cost, from his older established neighbors.

Testimony from Settlers.

The following letters are from well known settlers in the Duck Lake district.

Mr. Henry Kelly, Duck Lake, says:—"Having come to this country when very young, and being engaged in other pursuits, it is only during the past six or seven years that I have pursued farm-

ing. During this time I have paid special attention to mixed farming, and latterly specially to grain raising. I have now a large number of horses, and can give my testimony as to the facility with which they can be raised. The best horse for this country is produced from the native pony mare and an imported general purpose horse. These I have raised successfully for years, letting them rustle summer and winter on the prairie for a living. I have large Canadian horses which have been living in the same way and doing well during the last six or seven years, and still I think for a tough and hardy beast, suitable to the country and to the work about the farm here, there is nothing like the cross from the native mare.

"The cattle which I have found to be the best dairying stock, are Durham grades; there is no trouble to raise them and they are better and larger animals than the native stock. I generally stable mine in winter, but some years, owing to the want of stable room, I have let whole herds of them winter outside, without shelter of any kind except the bluffs, and by giving them plenty of good hay and water they came out better in the spring than those which were housed all winter. No matter in what condition animals are turned out of the stables in spring they soon fatten up on the prairie, ten days making a great difference in an animal turned out poor in spring.

"I have found that good farming is as necessary here as elsewhere, and pays better in the long run, although a good crop is often raised with very little labor. My grain crop for the last two years will probably give a good idea what we can do here from year to year. In 1891 I had a splendid yield



CAPTAIN CRAIG'S GARTHLAND FARM, NEAR DUCK LAKE

of no. 1 Red Fyfe wheat, partly on summer-fallow and partly on old land, the summer-fallow turning out the best and yielding 30 bushels to the acre all round. It ripened early, and was harvested long before we had any frost. In 1892 I had more summer-fallow and a piece of new land in, and the summer-fallow almost eclipsed the new land as to yield, being over 30 bushels to the acre, while the new land would not average quite 30 bushels on the whole. This will show that although new land gives a better yield as a rule, yet summer-fallow will be the best method of farming afterwards. My wheat last year was a very bright sample, and graded no. 1 hard, there being no frost in the district until very late in the fall, when all grain was thrashed and in the granary."

SUCCESSFUL SHEEP RAISING.

Mr. Gilbert Carter, Carlton, Saskatchewan, says:—"I have been farming in the Duck Lake district for the past six years. My attention has been devoted chiefly to sheep raising, in fact I think sheep and horses are the most successful stock to rear in this district, on account of the small cost of raising them. Sheep require to be fed from two to four months in each year. Some years I have not started feeding my sheep till January, while in others I have been able to turn them out on the prairie in February. Sheep require no stabling in the winter, in fact it is detrimental to them to be kept housed. My sheep have the shelter of the bluffs and also open sheds to run into at night when very cold. Although I live in an isolated part of the district yet I manage to do away with any prairie wolves which come about the place. I set poison and thus capture them, should they

THE FERTILE SASKATCHEWAN COUNTRY.

come around at night, while in the day time there are none to be seen. The cost of wintering sheep is small, hay is put up at a cost of a dollar a ton, which will winter six sheep or say 25 cents apiece for wintering. It requires no more men to look after 1,000 sheep than it does for 500. Mink run out with no one looking after them all summer, coming home of their own accord for salt. Like all other animals they require to be watched during the lambing season. My lambs when four to five months old bring me from \$4 to \$5 each. One great feature in favor of sheep farming is that we get two crops as it were each year, a crop of wool and a crop of lambs. I started in a small way some six years ago having only 18 Leicesters and 5 merinos; now I have a large flock. Horses, in their own way, cost even less than sheep, as we let whole bands of them run on the prairie both summer and winter, not having to feed them at all, unless we work them, when they are fed the same as anywhere else.

"About grain raising. Although I have devoted my time especially to sheep yet I can testify to the excellent crops of all cereals in the district, having a good yield of a number one sample of wheat from year to year myself. As this is an immense wheat growing country, there is a splendid opening for a good flour mill at Duck Lake, there being enough wheat now grown in the vicinity to keep a large mill running night and day."

A NAVAL OFFICER'S EXPERIENCE

Captain C. H. May, late of the Royal Navy, now ranching at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, says -- "Although I do not go into grain raising much, growing only what I require for my own use, I have a large number of horses and cattle which increase and multiply and give me very little trouble. The climate is very healthy and in spite of the cold in winter, I would rather live here than in the Old Country. The sport is good and a man could easily live by his gun. There is no doubt in this country an opening for anyone who chooses to work moderately hard, and does not mind roughing it a little at first. Only a small amount of capital is required, as the cost of living frugally is very small."

As seen by Delegates.

Last autumn a number of delegates from Michigan, U.S.A. visited the Saskatchewan district for the purpose of selecting homes for themselves and reporting on the capabilities of the district to their fellow-settlers in Michigan, large numbers of whom are anxious to remove to a more favorable location than they are now in. These delegates reported as follows:

At Duck Lake -- one of the most important stations on the Prince Albert branch of the C.P.R. -- we were taken in hand by the immigration committee and were shown some magnificent land in the immediate vicinity, as well as in the vicinity of Stony Lake. Driving south from the town we were shown some land open for homesteading, that was first class in quality, further on whole sections were to be obtained of the same land in which districts we located 10 homesteads. While passing through this district we examined some of the grain, which was a no. 1 sample in yield and quality. The vegetables seen on Mr. Mitchell's ranch could not be beaten in any country. Mr. Mitchell's cattle were seen near the town on the prairie. In the herd were a number of Highland cattle imported from Scotland, which do exceptionally well in this country, living outside during the whole winter. There is an immense area of fine country open for settlement here.

"In the Stony Lake country, we accepted the hospitality of Captain Craig, who has a magnificent farm. This gentleman gave some practical information about the country, giving the drawbacks as well as the advantages. In this district there is a large area open for settlement with plenty of wood and good water.

"With regard to wood and timber in the Duck Lake district, there is abundance of both, timber being obtained from half a mile to a mile from where we located, while spruce and pine could be hauled from the firs at a distance of 10 to 12 miles, or be brought down by the railway which passes in the middle of the district.

"Regarding the game, every one is a sportsman, a gun being found in every house. There are any amount of geese, ducks, chickens, partridge, hare and rabbits, while plenty of moose, jumping deer, bear and other large game are found further from the settlement.

"There are no potato bugs or other destructive insects in the country."

(Signed),

Charles Gorbett, Kindie, Huron Co.
Andrew Lackie, Fillion, Huron Co.
Phillip Shad, Soule, Huron Co.
Thomas A. Little, Luce, Saginaw Co.
Omer Doane, Chesaning, Saginaw Co.
C. M. Russell, "
John W. Gintler, "
Wm. Shook, "
Jesse C. Church, "
Steven Foulsham, Pinnebog, Huron Co.
James Watt, Huron City, Huron Co.

To the British Emigrant.

By W. S. Urton

Presuming that by force of circumstances the question of a desirable change has come over you, as an agriculturist, who finds himself driven out of his own market, the first thought will be "Where shall I go to better my condition?" To such I would say "Follow Horace Greely's advice, 'Go West,' to that magnificent stretch of that agricultural territory, Western Canada, with its millions of free acres, and the British flag for a reserve." Your choice falls on this fair portion of Canada! You have concluded rightly that it offers splendid opportunities, every opening for the agricultural class is here held forth, for the farmer with a good capital, as well as the agricultural laborer with but willing hands and heart.

You have decided to go, the next step then is to obtain the requisite information; as how to go, what it will cost, what to take, and what to leave behind. Firstly, I advise you to write to some one of the many emigration agents, a list of whom will be found on a later page, from whom all necessary information can be obtained, rates of passage, clear through to destination will be given, at astonishingly low rates of fare, with which will also be given a certificate entitling you to a rebate, when making entry for government land. It is much cheaper to book right through to your destination, it saves time and trouble, transfer of baggage, and consequently less chance of breakages. If your choice should fall on this district, which I sincerely hope it will, for your own benefit as well as for those of us who have come ahead from the motherland, you will find friends ready to assist you to a comfortable settlement and choice of land.

As to what you should bring, experience has taught me that a good supply of plain clothing, no matter how shabby, should form a large part of the emigrant's luggage. A good supply of warm underclothing, stockings, etc., house linen and bed clothes and blankets, and let every housewife leaving home, well stock her work basket with all the little odds and ends of usefulness such as darning wools, tapes, needles, cotton, etc., so indispensable to the household of a family. Heavy and cumbersome articles such as furniture, bedsteads, etc., should not be taken, as they can be purchased in this country at reasonable prices and more adapted to the country. A sewing machine, if you have one, after being taken to pieces and well packed, will carry safely and be very useful. If the emigrant should possess a tendency for sport he should provide himself with a good breech-loading shot gun, as game here abounds in plenty and is the common property of the settler in its season. Bear in mind this bring all the little useful utensils you can pack, consistent with the weight allowed, but it is inadvisable to incur any extra weight charges, and I would advise all to specially arrange with the booking agent that there will be no extras to pay for baggage. Of course each party will be guided, as regards the above, by the length of his purse, but it is much better to allow as much capital as possible to come with you, as on this depends your scale of operations. Families should provide themselves with sufficient cold eatables, say a boiled ham, sugar, tea, etc., for the railway journey, as in the splendidly equipped railway carriages tea can be made and eggs boiled, in fact, with a supply of butter and bread purchased in Montreal or Quebec say, you will get along well without the attendant eating house or hotel charges for meals during the four or five days' journey.

The emigrant will find on landing from the ship to commence his overland journey, pleasant business-like officers, who will give all information and assistance necessary. In checking your luggage

and in your general comfort, never be afraid to trouble them. It is good policy for the emigrant to arm himself with a letter of introduction from a reliable emigration officer or booking agent to some official at the port of disembarkation. Once you arrive at your point of choice or destination you will be well looked after during the preliminaries of locating and building of a house. All necessary articles of food for housekeeping, which the new settler may require, can be purchased in the district at very moderate prices. Implements, waggons, working horses, or oxen are always to be procured here, and are especially adapted for this country and the prices are always right to a careful buyer.

What Immigrants May Expect.

By A. B. Stewart, M. D.

Duck Lake, although a village of only two years growth, has three general stores, where may be procured anything necessary for life in this country, an hotel, post office, telegraph office, police barracks, telephone office, where communication by telephone can be had with outside settlements at a moment's notice, express office, railway ticket office, where tickets can be procured for any place in the world, a church, schools, private offices and an implement warehouse. It may be mentioned in passing that the Massey-Harris Company have their headquarters for the Saskatchewan at Duck Lake and always have on hand all the implements and machinery a farmer needs. There is also a blacksmith shop and the carpenter and other trades are represented. There is a resident physician, school teachers, a number of clergymen and the district is visited by the legal fraternity frequently.

To the immigrant, on arrival here, the country appears as one immense park, owing to the clumps of beautiful trees which look as if they were arranged there by man and trimmed accordingly, while in fact they are only the natural bluff (a name given to clumps or groves of trees in this country). In going to the different parts of this district one may see the following settlements which were established ten years before a railway came to the country. The Batoche settlement, about five miles from Duck Lake, is a most picturesque spot on the South Saskatchewan river. It has two general stores, police barracks, post office, telephone, private residences, etc., of which one will attract particular attention, that of Mr. Xavier Letendre, or Batoche as he is commonly called. This is a very fine residence built some 8 or 10 years ago and costing quite a sum. Further up the river the Roman Catholic church is seen, with its tall spire making quite a picture in this old village, while the early settlers houses line the banks of the river on either side being only a short distance apart, owing to the government's policy of dividing the lands along the river into narrow claims. All along this beautiful spot lands are to be secured by the new comer, by going back a mile from the river, or by going farther away from the centre (Batoche) he may have a fine claim on the river bank, the only advantage in this being the scenery along the river, as the land is equally as good away from the river.

The next settlements along the South Saskatchewan tributary to Duck Lake are St. Laurent, St. Louis de Langevin and Fish Creek, all of which were established by the early pioneers of the district. St. Laurent, 8 miles from Duck Lake, like Batoche, has its mission church, adjoining buildings, etc., making it quite a settlement where farming is extensively carried on. Passing further in this direction one comes to that beautiful stretch of country, the St. Louis de Langevin settlement, the lands of which are being rapidly taken up by Canadian and British farmers. Then going in the opposite direction from Batoche, up the river, the Fish Creek settlement is reached 15 miles from Duck Lake. Here the rancher and mixed farmer are found making a good living, this part being close to the river is specially adapted to mixed farming, with abundance of wood and timber which is found every where in the country along rivers as well as the best of water, two essentials to the settler. The soil in this district, from the river back, merges from a light sandy loam to a heavy black loam with a clay subsoil. As one goes further back hundreds of homesteads await the immigrant in all parts of this district.

The Duck Lake settlement proper is about five miles from the South Saskatchewan and 12 miles

from the North Saskatchewan river, and includes the district immediately surrounding Duck Lake station on the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway. Close to the village numerous magnificent farms may be seen. Right at the station is Mr. Hillyard Mitchell's ranch, which is illustrated on another page, where are some of the finest cattle to be seen anywhere, as well as one of the finest farmer's gardens in Canada. Passing further on is the farm of Mr. Henry Kelly, who devotes his attention to mixed farming. Here are large grain fields, bands of horses and cattle and good buildings suitable for this country, which at once catch the eye as being that of a thrifty farmer. Passing further from the station is the Mennonite settlement, where these thrifty people are building up for themselves homes in this great country. Their mode of operation being somewhat different from that of the British and Canadian farmer, they must be visited to be really understood.

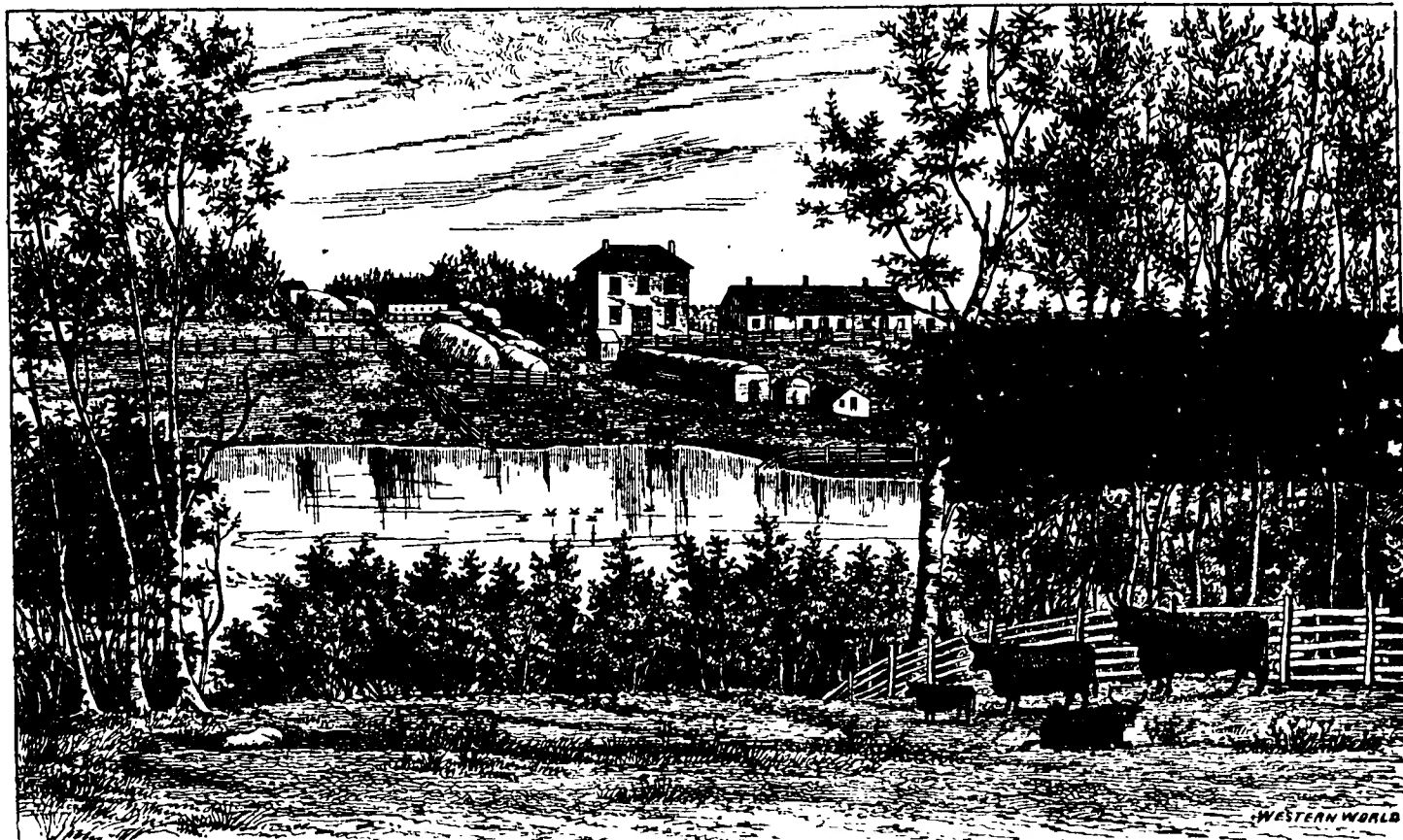
Going from the South Saskatchewan to the north branch of that river are such settlements as Wingard and Carlton. In the former settlement a number of enterprising farmers are located, who devote their time to mixed farming. Their sample

a large amount of grain is grown. There is a stretch of country here extending from the Saskatchewan to the Shell river, 27 miles north, of magnificent country for settlement, especially adapted to stock raising and mixed farming, and extending on either side of the Saskatchewan river for 30 miles west, is a good country for raising wheat as well as other cereals.

The attention of the new settlers in the immediate vicinity of Duck Lake, will be devoted chiefly to grain raising, as in time, owing to a good deal of the now vacant land being settled upon, little pasture will be left for large herds of ranch cattle, so that they will have to move further back for pasture. At present of course there is a great deal of land to be had, either by homesteading or buying at a very small rate from the railway company, all around Duck Lake Station, while hundreds of homesteads can still be taken up within a radius of 5 or 10 miles of the town. The railway company have a fine station building, a section house and a good substantial freight shed at this point, with telegraph and express office in connection, and although the railway has only been in operation a little over two years, this has become one of the

as are to be seen in large herds here, owned by the settlers, and can be bought at from \$25 to \$100, according to the size and quality of the animal. They are exceedingly tough and hardy, after a day's drive they are merely unharnessed, hobbled and turned loose to feed on the prairie, which they will do summer or winter. A good sized team will do any work the farmer may require about the farm, from plowing and hauling hay to getting out timber, which is probably the heaviest hauling he would have to do, if the timber is green.

There are two schools at Duck Lake, in each of which a first class teacher is employed and besides the ordinary public school work both of these teachers are capable of teaching the branches taught in high schools and collegiate institutes. Duck Lake has an annual race meeting and all athletic sports, including tennis, lacrosse, foot ball, boating, bicycling, etc., are indulged in by those who choose. There is a flourishing court of the Independent Order of Foresters here who will welcome brethren of this order. There is no Masonic lodge, but there are quite a number of masons in the district and a lodge will be started here shortly. In Prince Albert, the largest town in Saskatchewan,



MR. HILLYARD MITCHELL'S RANCH, DUCK LAKE

of wheat last year graded No. 1 extra hard, of which they have a great quantity. The land throughout this district is rolling prairie, studded here and there with clumps of trees, and heavily timbered along the river, and north of the settlement is the fir belt with its miles of heavy timber. Carlton is situated on the main trail or road from Duck Lake to the settlements north of the North Saskatchewan river. It is one of the oldest places in the Territories, having been the head district quarters of the Hudson's Bay Co. a number of years. It is 12 miles from Duck Lake and six from the post office at Wingard, which is about 10 miles from Duck Lake and further down the river than Carlton. There is plenty of land still open for settlement in both of these districts.

Passing across the river at Carlton one soon gets into a splendid ranching country, with large areas of good farming land as well, particularly opposite Wingard, on the river. There is an immense amount of hay in this part of the country, also wood and water in abundance. Very little of the land here is taken up yet, so that there is a splendid chance for those who wish to go into stock raising. There are two settlements north of the river, Muskeg Lake and Snake Plain, the former 18 miles and the latter 25 miles distant, in both of which

most important stations on the road. The railway did not pass through any of the old settlements, which were chiefly along the rivers, so it leaves all the lands adjoining it open for settlement. Of course a portion of this has been taken up during the last two years, and a larger influx than ever is expected during this year. The new comer will always find at the station some of the immigration committee, who will take him in hand, showing him over any part of the country, and giving him any information he may require.

The roads in this country are merely well beaten tracks or trails across the prairie, with improvements in all low places, bridges, etc., put there by the local government, which spend quite a large sum of money in each district annually. It is needless to say these are magnificent roads, level as a table, without a stone to jar one's wheels, thus making them a great path for the bicycle rider. As there are section roads between all sections, a mile apart, improvements are put upon these as soon as the settlers demand them. In looking over new land and driving across country, one does not of course follow any road as a rule, but drives on the prairie sod, which is perfectly firm and even, and then one can drive from 30 to 40 miles in a day with a team of small ponies, such

as are to be seen in large herds here, owned by the settlers, and can be bought at from \$25 to \$100, according to the size and quality of the animal. They are exceedingly tough and hardy, after a day's drive they are merely unharnessed, hobbled and turned loose to feed on the prairie, which they will do summer or winter. A good sized team will do any work the farmer may require about the farm, from plowing and hauling hay to getting out timber, which is probably the heaviest hauling he would have to do, if the timber is green.

How to Begin in the North-West.

To the man with capital of course this is not a hard question to decide, but to those who have just what money they require to make a good start on their farm, a few suggestions may be profitable. The writer presumes you have brought your clothing, bedding and household nicknacks with you, and if from Eastern Canada or the Northern States, owing to the low rates given by the C. P. R., you may bring all your household goods and all your stock with the exception of heavy farm machinery. In starting here, if you have to buy everything, oxen will be found to be more serviceable than horses for working, to the man of moderate means; while the native ponies can be bought at a very small cost to do any driving round you may require.

What you shall do on first arriving will depend on the time of year of your arrival. Should you come in April or May you had better put in a crop

at once; there is plenty of arable land to be had for the working of it from some of the native settlers, who are not anxious to do much work themselves, so you may raise your seed and wheat for flour the first year, which cannot be done should you go a long distance from settlement and commence working on the virgin prairie, as you would have no plowing done or other preparations. After this you will get out logs and timber to build your house, getting out all the timber you can, so that it will be drying so as to improve your buildings another year. Next provide yourself with a breaking plow which can be bought here and start to break or plow up the sod—on your own homestead, so as to get it under crop the following year. The month of June and first half of July, when the sod is usually damp, is the best time for breaking. This has then the hot weather of the next six weeks to rot thoroughly. Up to the present the implements absolutely necessary are two plows and a harrow; if you have a roller so much the better for your crop and your breaking is all the better for being rolled, as it rots quicker.

Next you put up your hay for winter, the last two weeks in July and first two weeks in August being devoted to this, if you have much stock. You cut the native hay either on your own claim or get a permit from the land office to cut what you require on some of the government land. If you have a number of animals to winter you will have to provide yourself with a mower and rake and of course a wagon. Oxen have been found to do mowing very well, if they are fairly good walkers. You may either stack your hay where you cut it, fence it and plow a fire guard at once, which is made by plowing about ten furrows in a circle round it, then at a distance of 10 feet from these plow another and burn the grass between the two on some calm day when you have two or three of the neighbors about. The new settler should plow around all his buildings as soon as he has them erected, as on account of his not having much plowing done at first start, the prairie grass, on becoming dry late in the fall, may accidentally catch fire and will spread over a large area in a short time, should there happen to be a wind, unless prevented by either a furrow or two of plowing or a well beaten trail where the grass has been destroyed or trodden down.

By the time haying is over the harvest commences. Barley and oats are ripe early in August, while wheat comes in from the middle to the end of that month. The grain is generally stacked in the field or in close proximity to the stables, so as to get the benefit of the straw for the cattle in the winter, although in Manitoba they generally burn the wheat straw and here also where there is a large quantity of it collecting year after year it becomes a nuisance, but at first start you should save it and pile it up properly as it will be useful for roofing your stables and out buildings, which you might not require another year.

The back setting, or second plowing, of the land you have broken on your homestead can be done any time during the latter part of the summer and it is then ready for crop in the spring. In September and October you will have a chance to get your buildings in good shape for winter. The cost of buildings is small, if you do the most of the work yourself, or, if not accustomed to it, with the aid of some of the native settlers you will soon put up a substantial log house. All material for building can be procured in the district. Before the end of November all your buildings should be plastered and made warm for winter and your dwelling house banked with earth, or a great many wait till snow comes and bank them up a couple of feet with it. In winter you can still be busy, getting out rails for fencing, which you can generally procure close to your claim, as well as getting wood for fuel, which can be procured anywhere.

Land Officials, &c.

Following is a list of government and railway officials and others from whom information can be obtained:

Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Chambers, 17, Victoria Street, London, S. W., England.

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENTS.

John Dyke, 15 Water street, Liverpool, Eng.
J. W. Down, Bath Bridge, Bristol, Eng.
Thos. Graham, 40 St. Enoch Square, Glasgow, Scotland.
H. Merrick, 29 Victoria Place, Belfast, Ireland.

T. Conolly, Northumberland House, Dublin, Ireland.

E. M. Clay, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

S. Gardner, St. Johns, New Brunswick.

L. Stafford, Quebec City, Quebec.

Dominion Government Agent, Montreal, Quebec.

Thos. Bennett, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

R. H. Mair, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Information may also be obtained in Great Britain from the offices of Mr. Archer Baker, European Traffic Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at 67 and 68 King William street, London, E. C.; 7 James street, Liverpool; 105 Market street, Manchester and 25 Gordon street, Glasgow; and from any of the booking agencies of the Allan and Dominion steamship lines.

Mr. H. Mitchell, M. L. A., and Dr. A. B. Stewart, Secretary of the Immigration Committee, both of whose address is Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, will be happy to answer any enquiries which may be sent them.

Land Surveys and Regulations.

Appended are the government regulations respecting lands. Any one looking over them carefully cannot fail to understand how land is acquired and the system under which it is surveyed and when once on the spot will soon find the surveyors posts and mounds giving the numbers of the section, township and range in which the land is situate. The new settler, after looking over a part of the district which suits him, chooses a spot on which he would like to locate, he soon finds the posts, or will be aided by someone who knows all about it, takes note of the number of the section, township and range and which quarter of the section, which is square, he chooses. Armed with this he goes to the nearest land office, gives the agent this number, etc., pays his fee and gets a receipt for his entry, which will hold his land against all comers, and he may at once begin to establish himself on it. The land office for the district is situated at Prince Albert, about an hour and a half's ride by train from Duck Lake, but negotiations are already being entered into with the Government to have one opened at Duck Lake and no doubt this will be done in a very short time. The immigration committee at Duck Lake take all new settlers in hand and show them the district by driving them round and they are always accompanied by a land guide who will show them the lands available for homesteading and give any other information they may require. When making an entry for land the settler may obtain a permit to cut timber for his own use for buildings, etc., on any of the government lands by paying a fee of 25 cents (one shilling), such timber is then his own property.

Free grants of one quarter-section (160 acres) of surveyed agricultural land may be obtained by any person who is the sole head of a family, or by any male who has attained the age of 18 years, on application to the local agent of Dominion lands, and on payment of an office fee of \$10. At the time of making entry the homesteader must declare under which of the three following provisions he elects to hold his land, and on making application for patent must prove that he has fulfilled the conditions named therein:—

1. By making entry and within six months thereafter erecting a habitable house and commencing actual residence upon the land, and continuing to reside upon it for at least six months in each year for the three next succeeding years, and doing reasonable cultivation duties during that period.
2. By making entry for the land, cultivating it for three successive years, so that at the end of that period not less than 40 acres be under cultivation; residing for at least six months in each year during that time within a radius of two miles of the homestead; and erecting a house upon the homestead and residing in it for three months next preceding the application for patent.
3. By making entry, and within six months from the date thereof commencing the cultivation of the homestead; breaking and preparing for crop within the first year not less than five acres; cropping the said five acres, and breaking and preparing for crop not less than 10 acres in addition, and erecting a habitable house thereon before the expiration of the second year, and thereafter residing therein and cultivating the land for at least six months of each of the three years next prior to the date of the application for patent.

Persons making entry for homesteads on or after September 1st in any year are allowed until June

1st following to perfect their entries by going into actual residence. The only charge for a homestead of 160 acres is the entrance fee of \$10. In certain cases forfeited pre-emptions and cancelled homesteads are available for homesteads, but slightly additional fees are demanded from the settlers in each case, and when abandoned pre-emptions are taken up they are required to perform specified conditions of settlement. Full information can be obtained from the local agents. In the event of a homesteader desiring to secure his patent within a shorter period than the three or five years, as the case may be, he will be permitted to purchase his home at the Government price at the time, on furnishing proof that he has resided on the land for at least 12 months subsequent to date of entry, and has cultivated 30 acres thereof.

The following diagram shows the manner in which the country is surveyed. It represents a township—that is, a tract of land six miles square, containing 36 sections of one mile square each. These sections are subdivided into quarter sections of 160 acres each. All even-numbered sections of agricultural land, excepting 8 and 26, are open for homestead entry, unless specially reserved for some other purpose.

TOWNSHIP DIAGRAM.

640 acres.					
N.					
31	32	33	34	35	36
30	SCHOOL LANDS.	28	27	H. B. LANDS.	25
19	20	21	22	23	24
W.					
18	17	16	15	14	13
7	H. B. LANDS.	9	10	SCHOOL LANDS.	12
6	5	4	3	2	1
S.					
E.					

The right of pre-emption has ceased to exist, having been altogether discontinued after January 1st, 1890, but a homesteader desiring to acquire an adjoining quarter section may be permitted to purchase it at regulation price of \$3 an acre, on paying one-quarter cash and the balance in three equal successive annual instalments, with interest at 6 per cent.

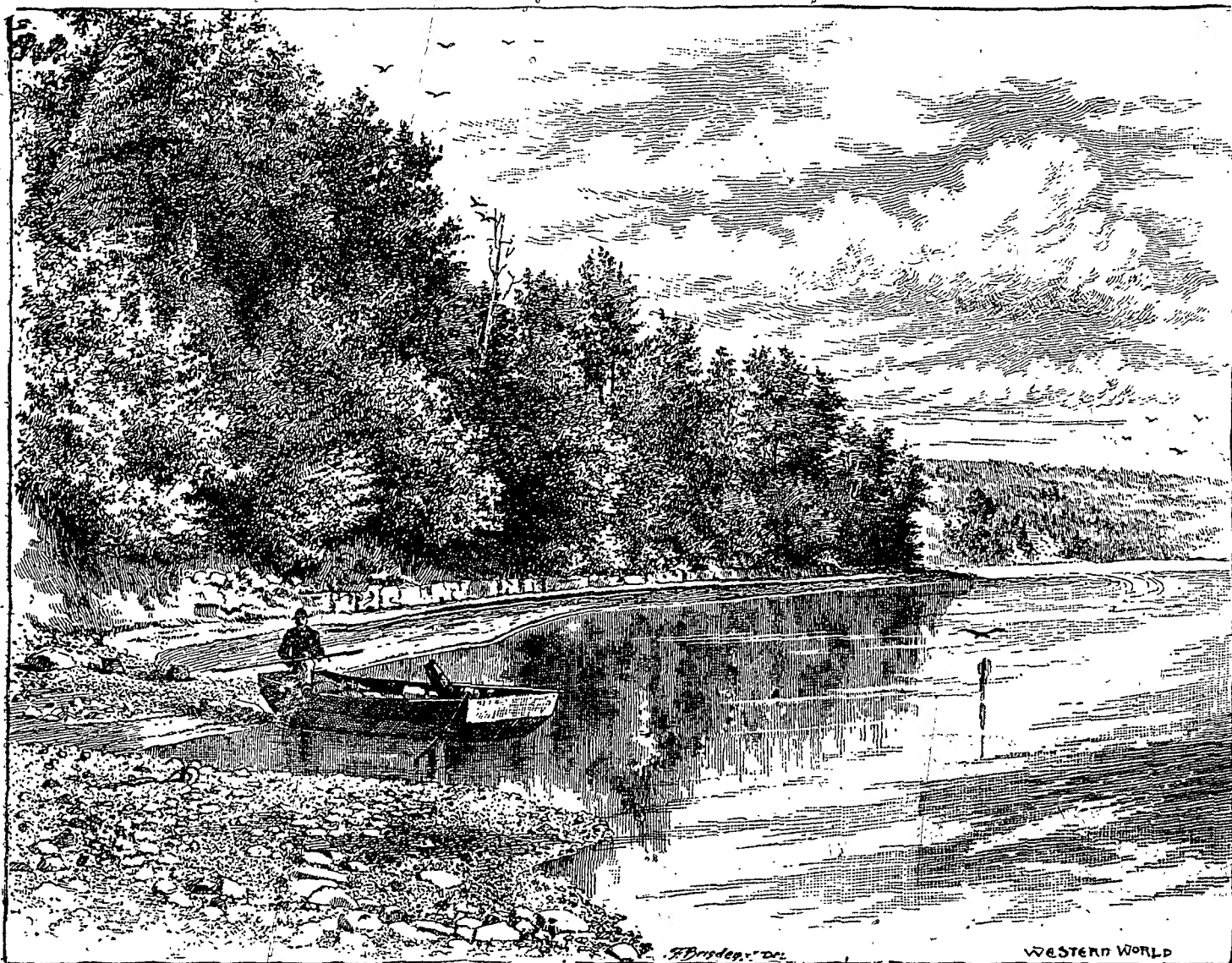
Information respecting timber, mineral, coal, grazing and hay lands, may be obtained from any of the land agents. Homesteaders in the first year of settlement are entitled to free permits to cut a specified quantity of timber for their own use only, upon payment of an office fee of 25 cents.

It must be distinctly understood that the land regulations are subject to variation from time to time. Settlers should take care to obtain from the land agent, when making their entry, an explanation of the actual regulations in force at that time, and the clause of the Act under which the entry is made endorsed upon the receipt, so that no question or difficulty may then or thereafter arise.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situate, or, if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one near the local office to make the entry for him. The Government agent for lands in the Duck Lake district is John McTaggart whose address is Prince Albert.

All communications having reference to lands under control of the Dominion Government, lying between the eastern boundary of Manitoba and the Pacific coast, should be addressed to the Secretary of Department of Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan Railway Co., has 1,500,000 acres of land, consisting of the odd numbered sections along the line of its road. At present any of these lands, except those within two miles of a railway station, may be purchased at \$3 an acre. Lands within two miles of a station are held at higher prices, according to location and quality. Terms of payment, one-tenth cash, and the balance in nine annual payments, with interest at six per cent. Ten cents per acre payable to Government for cost of survey will be added in each case. This amount will be payable with final instalment of purchase money, and without interest. Full particulars as to these lands can be obtained on application to Osler, Hammond & Nanton, Winnipeg.



A VIEW ON THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN.—(From a photograph).



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